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SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE

AD-A235 895

(2)

DTIC REPORT DOCUMENT

Form Approved
OMB No. 0704-0188

1a REPORT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION Unclassified		1b RESTRICTIVE MARKINGS	
2a SECURITY CLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY MAY 29 1991		3 DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY OF REPORT This document has been approved for public release and sale; its distribution is unlimited	
2b DECLASSIFICATION/DOWNGRADING SCHEDULE		5 MONITORING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER(S)	
4 PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER(S) ONR TR 19		7a NAME OF MONITORING ORGANIZATION Office of Naval Research	
6a NAME OF PERFORMING ORGANIZATION Naval Ocean Systems Center	6b OFFICE SYMBOL (if applicable) NOSC	7b ADDRESS (City, State, and ZIP Code) Code 1113, Chemistry Division Arlington, VA 22217	
6c ADDRESS (City, State, and ZIP Code) Code 521 San Diego, CA 92152		9 PROCUREMENT INSTRUMENT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER N0001491WX24178	
8a NAME OF FUNDING/SPONSORING ORGANIZATION Office of Naval Research	8b OFFICE SYMBOL (if applicable) ONR	10 SOURCE OF FUNDING NUMBERS	
8c ADDRESS (City, State, and ZIP Code) 800 North Quincy St. Arlington, VA 22217		PROGRAM ELEMENT NO	PROJECT NO
		TASK NO	WORK UNIT ACCESSION NO
11 TITLE (Include Security Classification) (Unclassified) Triplet-Triplet Absorption and Polarization Spectra of Anthracene			
12 PERSONAL AUTHOR(S) T. G. Pavlopoulos			
13a TYPE OF REPORT Interim Technical	13b TIME COVERED FROM 06/90 TO 05/91	14 DATE OF REPORT (Year, Month, Day) 91-05-24	15 PAGE COUNT 2
16 SUPPLEMENTARY NOTATION Spectrochimica Acta 47A, 517-518 (1991).			
17 COSATI CODES		18 SUBJECT TERMS (Continue on reverse if necessary and identify by block number)	
FIELD	GROUP	SUB-GROUP	
		Triplet-triplet absorption spectra, photoselection spectroscopy, spectroscopy with lasers	
19 ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse if necessary and identify by block number)			
<p>The triplet-triplet absorption and polarization spectrum of anthracene was obtained over the 390 to 540 nm spectral region. Photoselection spectroscopy was employed. For excitation the 379.5/385.3 nm lines from a cw argon ion laser were used. The obtained polarization spectrum was uniformly, negatively polarized over the entire 390 to 540 nm spectral region, with no sign of the positively polarized $A_{1g} \leftarrow B_{2u}$ transition.</p>			
20. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY OF ABSTRACT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNCLASSIFIED/UNLIMITED <input type="checkbox"/> SAME AS RPT. <input type="checkbox"/> DTIC USERS		21. ABSTRACT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION Unclassified	
22a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUAL Dr. T. G. Pavlopoulos		22b. TELEPHONE (Include Area Code) (619) 553-2792	22c. OFFICE SYMBOL

DD Form 1473, JUN 86

Previous editions are obsolete.

S/N 0102-LF-014-6603

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE

Unclassified

91 5 22 024

OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH

Contract N0001491WX24178

R&T Code 4131011

Technical Report No. 19

Triplet-Triplet Absorption and Polarization Spectra of Anthracene

by

T. G. Pavlopoulos

Prepared for Publication

in the

Spectrochimica Acta 47A, 517 (1991)

Naval Ocean Systems Center
San Diego, CA 92152

24 May 1991

Accession For	
NTIS GRA&I	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DTIC TAB	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unannounced	<input type="checkbox"/>
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By	
Distribution/	
Availability Codes	
Dist	Avail and/or Special
A-1	20

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91-00292



RESEARCH NOTE

Triplet-triplet absorption and polarization spectra of anthracene

(Received 1 June 1990; accepted 3 November 1990)

INTRODUCTION

Although the T-T absorption spectrum of anthracene is among the most widely studied T-T absorption spectra of any organic compound [1], the measurement of the polarization of this spectrum has proved to be difficult [2]. The T-T absorption spectrum of anthracene consists of a strong transition located in the near-UV/violet portion of the spectrum. It consists of three bands, with the 0,0 band located at 430 nm. This strong band is long-axis-polarized and has been assigned to the ${}^3B_{1g} \leftarrow {}^3B_{2u}$ transition [3, 4]. A weaker band with vibrational structure stretches from about 450 to 540 nm. It has been suggested that this band presents the long-axis-polarized ${}^3A_{1g} \leftarrow {}^3B_{2u}$ transition [2, 5]. A much weaker band extends to about 900 nm and has been assigned to a forbidden transition [6].

The difficulty in obtaining polarization spectra results from the overlap of the two differently polarized singlet-singlet (S-S) bands, namely the ${}^1A_{1g} \leftarrow {}^1B_{2u}$ and ${}^1A_{1g} \leftarrow {}^1B_{1u}$ transitions. Exciting with either the 351/554 nm lines from a krypton ion cw. or with the 325 nm line from a cadmium/helium cw laser, results in a depolarized T-T absorption spectrum. However, employing the 379.5/385.3 nm lines from an argon ion cw laser produced a clearly polarized spectrum.

Apparently, sufficient laser radiation is adsorbed at the onset of the 0,0 band at 374 nm [7] of anthracene to produce considerable triplet optical density OD_T , provided a sufficiently high solute concentration is used. Not only was the triplet optical density sufficient to record the T-T absorption spectrum over the entire 390-540 nm spectral region, but also the polarization of this spectrum.

EXPERIMENTAL

Chemicals

Anthracene, 99.9% "Gold Label", was obtained from Aldrich Chemical Co. and 2-methyltetrahydrofuran from Lancaster Synthesis Ltd.

As glassy solvent for anthracene, we switched from the ethanol/methanol mixture to 2-methyltetrahydrofuran. This solvent allows anthracene to dissolve at higher concentrations (about 2×10^{-4} molar) than the ethanol/methanol mixture (about 0.6×10^{-4} molar [8]). Higher solute concentrations produce higher triplet optical densities.

Apparatus

The same equipment was employed to measure the T-T absorption and polarization spectra as in Refs [9, 10]. The high reflector/output coupler mirrors for the 379.5/385.3 nm ion argon cw laser lines were purchased from Spectra Physics.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The T-T absorption spectrum and its polarization are presented in Fig. 1. Measurement accuracy of the OD_T values as well as the P values was rather high because anthracene dissolved in 2-methyltetrahydrofuran was rather stable photochemically under excitation with the 379.5/385.3 nm argon ion laser lines. Each P value was measured three times and the average of these data is presented Fig. 1. The P values should have an accuracy of about ± 0.02 . The measured OD_T values of anthracene were converted to molar triplet extinction coefficients by using the ϵ_T value at 430 nm obtained by McCURE's method [8, 11].

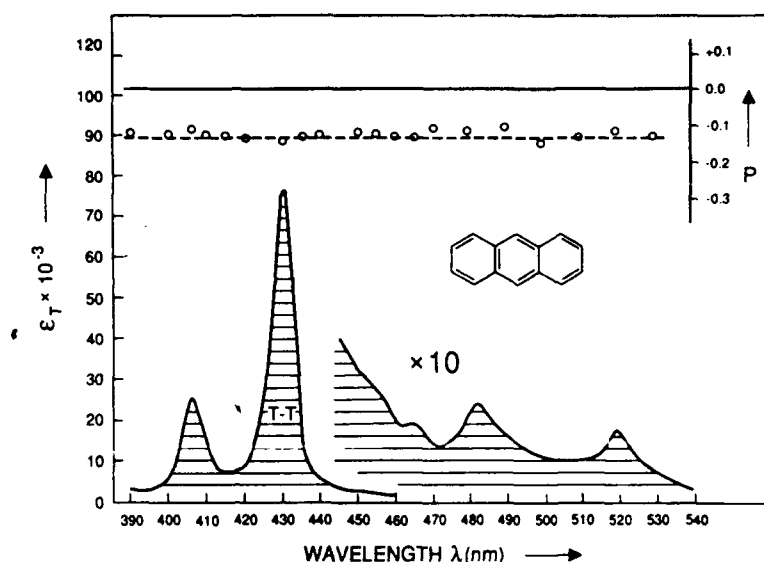


Fig. 1. Triplet-triplet absorption and polarization spectrum of a 2×10^{-4} molar solution of anthracene in 2-methyltetrahydrofuran, recorded at the temperature of liquid nitrogen.

From the polarization curve shown in Fig. 1, it is apparent that there is no trace (dip) indicating the presence of the positively polarized ${}^3A_{1g} \leftarrow {}^3B_{2u}$ transition. There are three explanations for the absence of this transition over the spectral region we studied:

- The ${}^3A_{1g} \leftarrow {}^3B_{2u}$ transition is located directly under the strong 0.0 band at 430 nm of the ${}^3B_{3g} \leftarrow {}^3B_{2u}$ transition. Its weaker intensity does not alter the negative degree of polarization P of the ${}^3B_{3g} \leftarrow {}^3B_{2u}$ transition.
- The ${}^3A_{1g} \leftarrow {}^3B_{2u}$ transition is located to the short-wavelength side of the 0.0 band at 430 nm and is of weak intensity.
- The ${}^3A_{1g} \leftarrow {}^3B_{2u}$ transition is exceptionally weak and is buried under the weak, negatively polarized forbidden transition(s) stretching from about 450 to 540 nm.

Acknowledgements—This work was supported by funds provided by the Office of Naval Research and the NOSC Independent Research program.

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